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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on East Timor: New York agreement issued on 7 May 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on East Timor: New York agreement issued on 7 May 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes the signing on 5 May 1999 in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Indonesia of the agreement on the future of East Timor (A/53/951-S/1999/513, annexes II and III). This agreement, based on the right to self-determination, will lead to a popular consultation of the East Timorese people on whether they wish to accept or reject the proposed constitutional framework for autonomy, with rejection leading to the independence of East Timor. This constitutes a major breakthrough on the path of solving a long-outstanding issue. In this context, the immediate release of Xanana Gusmao is an essential factor towards the success of the consultation process. EU commends the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor.

Security in East Timor remains crucial for the holding of a free and fair ballot on 8 August 1999 and for an orderly and peaceful transition in East Timor. EU once again calls on all sides to show the utmost restraint and refrain from any resort to violence. It reiterates is view that it remains the obligation of the Indonesian Government and its security forces to uphold peace and guarantee security for everybody in East Timor.